

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 98-232-E – ORDER NO. 98-595
AUGUST 5, 1998

IN RE: South Carolina Electric & Gas Company –)	ORDER
Application for a Certificate of Environmental)	RULING ON
Compatibility and Public Convenience and)	SITING
Necessity for Huron 230/12 KV Substation and)	
Huron 230 KV Tap Line.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of an application dated May 4, 1998 filed by South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity for the Huron 230/12 KV Substation and 230 KV Tap Line located in Richland County, South Carolina. The Application was filed pursuant to the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act, S.C. Code Ann. §58-33-10 et seq. (1976, as amended) and R.103-821 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

By letter dated May 8, 1998, the Commission's Executive Director instructed SCE&G to publish one time on or before May 15, 1998 a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in SCE&G's service area. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Company's Application and advised all interested parties desiring a public hearing of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate

pleadings. By letter dated May 28, 1998, SCE&G filed proof of publication. No protests or interventions were received.

A hearing was commenced on July 22, 1998, at 11:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room, 111 Doctors Circle, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Philip T. Bradley presided. Representing South Carolina Electric & Gas Company were Patricia T. Smith, Esquire and Catherine D. Taylor, Esquire. Representing the Commission Staff was F. David Butler, Esquire. The Company presented the testimony of Larry H. Welborn in support of its Application.

Welborn testified that the new 230 KV Tap Line and 230/12 KV Substation are needed to provide reliable service to the new Huron plant that is being built just north of SCE&G's Wateree Generating Plant in Richland County. This plant will make sodium chlorate and requires 56 MW of electricity for the manufacturing process. The 230 KV Tap Line is approximately .1 mile long extending from SCE&G's Wateree-Pineland 230 KV line to the substation. The substation is on 1.25 acres. Welborn testified that Huron's energy usage required a substation this size to serve it and that there were no alternatives to the construction of this substation and short Tap Line. He stated that an environmental study by Company personnel was completed in April 1998 and showed that the project would have no significant effects on land use, vegetation, wildlife, and threatened or endangered species. Welborn further testified that an archaeological survey assessment was conducted; no archaeological sites or historical structures were found in the vicinity of the proposed substation site. Welborn stated that SCE&G had served a copy of the Application on those State agencies as required by statute as well as the Richland County Administrator. There were no protests nor interventions in this

docket. In response to questions by Mr. Butler, Welborn stated that the construction of the facilities would conform to all applicable State and local laws as required by the Facility Siting Act.

Based on Welborn's testimony, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

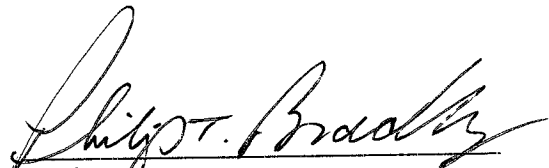
1. The new facilities are needed to provide power to the Huron plant site.
2. The nature of the probable environmental impact of the project is minimal.
3. The impact of the facility upon the environment is justified considering that there are no available alternatives and environmental impact is minimal.
4. The facilities will serve the interest of system economy and reliability.
5. There is reasonable assurance pursuant to the testimony of witness Welborn that the proposed facility will conform to applicable State and local laws and regulations issued thereunder.
6. That public convenience and necessity require the construction of the facility in that there is no other way to provide the requisite 56MW of power to the Huron site.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That SCE&G's Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity for the new Huron 230/12 KV Substation and the Huron 230 KV Tap Line located in Richland County, South Carolina is hereby granted.
2. That the criteria of the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act, S.C. Code Ann. §58-33-10 et seq., have been met.

3. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Acting Executive Director

(SEAL)